# ARTICLES

## Concerning matters Eccleſiaſtical

To be enquired of within the Dioceſe

## of Hereford

## In the Primary Viſitation

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

# HUMPHREY,

Lord Biſhop of that Dioceſe.

Printed Anno Dom. MDCCIII.

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## *The Churchwardens Oath.*

YOU ſhall ſwear truly and faithfully to execute the Office of a Churchwarden within your Pariſh, according to the beſt of your skill and knowledge: And alſo to preſent all ſuch things and Perſons, as to your knowledge are Preſentable by the Laws Eccleſiaſtical of this Realm:

So help you God, *&c.*

## *The Sidemen's Oath.*

YOU ſhall ſwear that you will be aſſiſtant to the Churchwardens of your Pariſh in the due Execution of their Office, ſo far as you are bound by Law.

# ARTICLES

*Of Viſitation and enquiry in the Dioceſe of* HEREFORD.

## Concerning Churches and Chappels &c.

### Tit. I.

1 IS your Pariſh Church or Chappel kept in good and ſufficient repair? and all things ſo decently ordered therein as becometh the Houſe of God?

2. Is there in your Church a Font of Stone, with a good Cover in a convenient place, and is there in your Chancel a decent Communion Table with a ſutable Carpet and another covering of Linnen for the Adminiſtration of the Lord's Supper? And have you a fair Communion Cup or Chalice with a Cover of Silver, and one or more Flagons of Silver or Pewter thereunto belonging, together with one or more Patins or Plates for the bread, and are they uſed to any other Common uſe?

3. Have you in your ſaid Church, or Chappel, a convenient reading Seat or Pew, a Pulpit with a comely cloth or Cuſhion and a decent Surplice, a Bible of the laſt Tranſlation, and two Books of Common Prayer in the large Volume, and the Book of Homilies ſet forth by Authority, a Book of Canons and Conſtitutions Eccleſiaſtical, the 39 Articles and a Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

 4. Have

4. Have you a Regiſter Book of Parchment, wherein to Regiſter the Names and Surnames of all ſuch perſons as are married, Chriſtened, or Buried, within your Pariſh, and is the Tranſcript thereof yearly brought into the Biſhop's Regiſtry? and alſo a Book to keep the Pariſh Accounts? and a perfect Inventory of all the Church Goods? And have you a Cheſt to keep the ſame?

5 What Legacies have been given to the uſe and benefit of your Church? How have they been beſtowed and diſpoſed of? Doth any detain or imbezle any Church Goods or any other Gifts given to Charitable uſes? And have you an Account of all gifts and Legacies given to your Church or other Charitable uſes, and a Table of the Names of ſuch Charitable Perſons as left or gave them hung up in your Church? And have you alſo either the Original or Authentique Copys of ſuch Wills, Deeds or other Inſtruments which concern ſuch pious or Charitable Gifts or bequeſts kept in your Church Cheſt?

6. Is your Church-yard decently kept and well fenced, and no Encroachment made thereon by building or otherwiſe?

7. Are the Houſe and Outhouſes of your Miniſter in good Repair? and have you a true and perfect Terrier of the Gleab Lands, parcells of Tythes and appurtenances? And have any of the antient Gleab or any parcel of Tythes belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage been at any time alienated or exchanged?

## Concerning Miniſters.

### Tit. II.

1. Hath your Parſon, Vicar or Curate received Epiſcopal Ordination according to Law?

2. Is

2. Is he defamed or ſuſpected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniacal Compact? And hath he been legally inducted into his Benefice.

3 Did he within two Months after his Induction, publickly in the Church, upon ſome Sunday or Holyday, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England Eſtabliſhed by Authority, and there publickly declare his aſſent thereunto? Hath he within ſix Months after his Induction read the Common Prayer and declared his Aſſent and Conſent to the uſe of every thing contained therein?

4. Hath he any other Eccleſiaſtical Benefice? Is he conſtantly reſident upon his Benefice among you? Or what reſidence doth he make in your Pariſh?

5. Hath he a Curate to aſſiſt him? Who is that Curate? Is he conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England? and doth he Serve in any other Church beſides? and what yearly Stipend is allowed him?

6. Doth your Parſon, Vicar or Curate, in reading the dayly Morning and Evening Service, Adminiſtration of the holy Sacraments, and other Offices of the Church, uſe the form of Words preſcribed in the Book of Common Prayer without any addition, omiſſion or alteration? And doth he uſe all ſuch Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the ſaid Book, ſo far as you have obſerved?

7. Doth your Miniſter at the Reading or Celebrating the Divine Offices in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice and (if a Graduate) a Hood ſuitable to his Degree?

8. Doth he obſerve the Holy days and Faſting-days, as alſo the Ember-Weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation week, as in the Common Prayer Book is appointed, giving notice to the Pariſhioners of every of the ſame in the Church in the time of Divine Service upon the Sunday next before?

9. Doth your Miniſter before Sermon uſe to pray for her preſent Majeſty Queen Anne, and the Princeſſe Sophia and the reſt of the Royall Family?

10 Hath your Miniſter been licenſed to preach by the Biſhop? If ſo, doth he then conſtantly (unleſs in caſe of Sickneſs, neceſſary abſence, or other reaſonable impediment) himſelf preach in your Church or Chappel one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a Licenſed Preacher, or being ſo Licenſed be hindered by Sickneſs or otherwiſe, doth he procure a Sermon to be ſo preached by ſome other Licenſed Preacher?

11. Doth your Miniſter diligently inſtruct the Youth of your Pariſh in the Church Catechiſm, and expound the ſame to them, and doth he prepare and preſent them, being ſo inſtructed, to be confirmed by the Biſhop?

12. Doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popiſh Recuſants and other Sectaries (if any ſuch be inhabiting within your Pariſh) to the true Religion profeſſed and eſtabliſhed in the Church of England?

13. Doth he refuſe or neglect to viſit the Sick, or delay the Baptiſm of any Infant that is in danger of Death? Is there any Child paſt Infancy, or other Perſon of more years, yet remaining unbaptized in your Pariſh? Doth your Miniſter uſe to Baptize any

any without Godfathers and Godmothers: or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children?

14. Hath he at any time (as you know, or have heard) preached any Falſe, Heretical, Seditious or Schiſmatical Doctrine?

15. Hath he preſumed to marry any Perſons in private Houſes, or ſuch as being under age, have not the Conſent of their Parents, or without the Banns firſt publiſhed on three Sundays or Holidays in the Church; or at any other hours then between Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unleſs he had a Licenſe or Diſpenſation ſo to do?

16. Doth any Perſon preach in your Pariſh as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Biſhop for ſo doing? Doth he before his Lecture, read Divine Service according to the Book of Common Prayer, and is he in all reſpects conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England?

17. Is your Parſon, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a ſober, unblameable and exemplary Life? Is his Apparel grave and decent, as the Canons of the Church require, or is his Carriage and Converſation, in any kind whatſoever, diſorderly or ſcandalous and unbeſeeming a Miniſter of Jeſus Chriſt?

18. Doth your Miniſter duly read in time of Divine Service, the late Act againſt Prophane Swearing and Curſing, on the four Lord's days appointed by the Act of Parliament? And hath he openly read the Queen's late Proclamation againſt Immorality and Profaneneſs?

19. Doth your Miniſter give due notice of the Celebration of the holy Communion on the Lord's day before, and read the Preparatory Exhortation in the Common Prayer for that purpoſe?

20. Do

20. Do thoſe who are to Communicate ſend in their names to the Miniſter ſome day the Week before, as is required in the Rubrick, and doth your Miniſter inſtruct and prepare the people to come to that holy Sacrament, and repel open and notorious evil livers and ſuch other perſons, as by the 27th Canon ought not to be admitted to that Sacrament, certifying the Ordinary thereof within 14 days?

21. Doth your Miniſter Church any Woman, who has brought forth a Child notoriouſly known to be begotten in Adultery or Fornication without firſt acquainting the Ordinary?

## Tit. III.

# Concerning the Pariſhoners.

1. Are there any in your Pariſh that ſcoff at Religion? or that are guilty of Profaneneſs or Blaſphemy againſt the Majeſty of God: Or that derogate from the Authority or Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures?

2. Are there any that by writing, ſpeaking or otherwiſe acting have depraved, vilified or oppoſed the Doctrine or Diſcipline of the Church of England, or the Liturgy, Rites or Ceremonies by Law eſtabliſhed?

3. Are there any that have interrupted or diſturbed the Miniſter in Reading Divine Service or Adminiſtring the Holy Sacraments, or interrupted him in Preaching?

4. Are there any Perſons living in your Pariſh, who under pretence of Liberty of Conſcience, wholly neglect all Publick Worſhip of God?

5. Is

5. Is there in your Pariſh any Perſon a known or reputed Heretick or Schiſmatick, any Papiſt, or other Sectary, or any that makes profeſſion of any other Religion then what is Eſtabliſhed in the Church of England; and if there be any ſuch, what are their names?

6. Is there any Perſon in your Pariſh, that liveth under a common fame or vehement Suſpition of Adultery, Fornication or Inceſt? Are there any common Drunkards within your Pariſh or common Swearers, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy talkers or Sowers of Sedition, faction and diſcord amongſt their Neighbours?

7. Do any of your Pariſh upon Sundays follow their bodily or ordinary Labour, or permit their Servants ſo to do? Are any Shops kept open, or any Wares ſold? Or any Vintners, Inn-keepers, or other Victuallers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, ſuffer any Perſon to tipple or game in their Houſes upon thoſe days? and eſpecially in the time of Divine Service.

8. Are there any in your Pariſh that refuſe to ſend their Infant Children in due time to be Baptized publickly in the Church, unleſs in caſe of urgent danger?

9. Doth every Houſholder in your Pariſh cauſe their Children and Servants to come to Church to learn their Catechiſm, and to give an account thereof unto your Miniſter, as he ſhall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundays and Holidays?

10. Is there any Perſon in your Pariſh, who being ſixteen Years of Age, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, at leaſt three times in the Year, of which Eaſter is alwaies to be one?

11. Have you any among you that be denounced and declared Excommunicate? How long have they been ſoExcommunicated? And do

any of your Pariſh keep ſociety with them before they be reconciled to the Church and abſolved?

12. Are there any Living in your Pariſh as Man and Wife, who are within the Degrees prohibited? Or any that being lawfully divorced have married again? Or any that being lawfully married, and not ſeparated or divorced by courſe of Law, do not cohabit together?

13. Are there any belonging to your Pariſh who refuſe to pay their annual Dues (commonly called Eaſter Duties or Offerings) to your Miniſter, or any that refuſe to contribute and pay the Rate aſſeſſed upon them for the Repaire of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of ſuch Books, Furniture or Ornaments as be requiſite for the performance of all Divine Offices?

14. Are there any Wills or Teſtaments of Perſons deceaſed in your Pariſh that be yet unproved, or any Goods adminiſtred without a due Grant from the Ordinary?

15. Is there any contention among any of your Pariſh for their Pews or Seats in your Church, and hath there been any diſturbance in your Church in the time of Service or Sermon on that account? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel without leave from the Ordinary?

## Tit. IV.

## Concerning Hoſpitals, Schools, School-Maſters Phyſicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

1. Is there in your Pariſh, any Hoſpital, Alms-houſe or Free-School? Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? And what is the yearly revenue or Stipend belonging to the Governors or Maſters of the ſame? Is the ſame ordered and governed in every reſpect as it ought to be? & the Revenues thereof rightly imployed, according

according to the intention of the Founder, and of ſuch Grants and Ordinances as have been made concerning the ſame?

2. Doth any man keep a publick or private School in your Pariſh, who is not allowed thereunto by the Biſhop? Doth your School-Maſter teach his Scholars the Catechiſm of Religion ſet forth by Authority? Doth he cauſe them upon Sundays and Holydays orderly to repaire to your Church or Chappel, and ſee that they behave themſelves there quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

3. Doth any man in your Pariſh practiſe Phyſick or Chirurgery, or any Woman take upon her to exerciſe the Office of Midwife without Approbation and Licenſe from the Ordinary?

## Tit. V.

## Concerning the Church-Wardens and Sidemen, Pariſh-Clerks or Sextons.

1. Are the Church-Wardens of your Pariſh yearly and duly choſen by the joynt conſent of the Miniſters and Pariſhioners, or one of them by the Miniſter, and the other by the Pariſhioners, according to the uſage of your Pariſh?

2. Have the former and laſt Church-Wardens given up their Accounts to the Pariſh and delivered up to the Succeeding Church-Wardens the monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3. Do they ſuffer no misbehaviour or diſorder to be done by Men, Women, Servants or Children in or about your Church or Chappel?

4. Do

4. Do they againſt every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a ſufficient quantity of fine white Bread and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?

5. Have you belonging to your Church or Chappelry a Pariſh Clerk or Sexton aged Twenty one and ſufficiently qualified for his place, and doth he diſcharge his Duty as the Laws require? Is he choſen by your Miniſter? and is his Wages duly payd him?

## Tit. VI.

# Enquiries concerning Church-Officers.

1. Are there any Eccleſiaſtical Officers, as Regiſters, Proctor, Apparitor, or other Miniſter of the Eccleſiaſtical Court, that take or exact Gratuities or unaccuſtomed Fees for expedition or any other way abuſe their place, or aggrieve her Majeſties Subjects or extort any greater Fees than ſuch as are allowed by the Table of Fees? Is that Table ſet up in the Conſiſtory Court and Regiſter's Office, and made publick to the view and peruſal of all that deſire it?

2. Hath the Regiſter, Apparitor or any other Miniſterial Officer for any Reward or Fee excuſed any from appearance before the Eccleſiaſtical Court, or diſmiſt any perſon detected or accuſed without the knowledge and conſent of the Judge, or otherwiſe neglected or abuſed his Office?

3. Hath any Perſon paid any money for Commutation of Penance for any crime of Eccleſiaſtical Cognizance, and if ſo, how hath it been diſpoſed of?

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